HUMA1000 Spring 2020 Course Outline (Subject to changes)
Cultures and Values (L3):

Individualism, Family values, and Social Responsibilities in Literature and Culture

Lecturing faculty:

Shengqing Wu, Associate Professor, Division of Humanities
Office Hour: Friday 2:00pm to 5:00pm; or by appointment,
Academic Building: 2380
Email address: hmswu@ust.hk

Writing workshop teaching faculty:
Language Instructors from Center for Language Education (CLE)

LMES forum coordinator:

Section Description:

This course will explore three core concepts of individualism, family values, and social responsibilities, including the individual self’s emotional well-being, ethical and socially responsible citizenship, and the possibility of a fulfilled life. Centering around the self’s relationship with family and the society, the course will address the following issues as reflected in a range of readings of Western and Chinese writings, literature, film and cultural texts: conceptions of the self; universal and culturally particular aspects of ethics and human nature; different conceptions of individual emotions (romantic love in particular); as well as the appreciation of beauty and art. Students will be introduced to key concepts concerning individual morality, feelings and social responsibilities, and to the ways in which nationality, family, the society, and other affiliations have been constructed in modern narratives of identity and selfhood. This introductory humanities course aims to develop students’ critical thinking and writing skills, while cultivating their moral sensibilities and abilities to become well-rounded individuals.

(Refer to p. 4 for level of English proficiency expected for this course and a reading sample.)

Course highlights:

- 3-credit HUMA common core course with no exam but one essay, LMES discussion forum, essay progress presentation, and 2 quizzes.
- Learn how to convince others in writing.
- Learn more about the values of morality, love and beauty.

The objectives of the course are two-fold:

(1) For communicative capacity building through humanities knowledge and
(2) For enrichment of values and perspectives corresponding to the mission and vision of
February 2020

UST.

The course encompasses three *interrelated* strands of learning:

a) Lectures on specific humanities perspective and values;

b) Writing workshops to sharpen communication skills for the essay; and

c) LMES discussion forum for exchange and comments among peers on lectures and essays.

### Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In-class quizzes</th>
<th>Multiple choice questions</th>
<th>10%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LMES Forum</td>
<td>➢ Peer exchange forum on questions posted by the faculty regarding the weekly readings and lectures; and for peer comments on the essays. ➢ One self-selected best posting contribution to the forum to be reported in the last round of exchange for assessment by the coordinator.</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>➢ Online videoed presentation of term essay progress. ➢ Peer assessment within the same workshop group as</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What students are expected to do:

Assigned readings for lectures: There are assigned readings for the lectures on the three values. Students must read them in order to follow the lectures. The in-class quizzes will test their comprehension of these readings. There are supplementary readings and movies for voluntary enrichment but not listed as required readings to be tested.

Participating in lectures and the quizzes: Lectures will introduce to the students basic concepts and theories regarding the three values: Individualism, Family values, and Social Responsibilities. Students are expected to do the assigned readings, follow the lectures closely, and participate in activities during the lectures. They will need to connect what they learn in the lectures with what they do in the LMES forum, the Writing Workshops, and the essay writing. This connection is graded. There are two quizzes to assess how much they have acquired from the assigned readings and the lectures.

Participating in Writing Workshop: You are required to attend writing workshops held on alternate weeks. A detailed writing workshop schedule is available on LMES. The writing workshops will focus on formulating your essay, from brainstorming of ideas, developing essay, constructing argument, sharpening argument, exchanging comments, revising based on feedback from peers and the instructor, to polishing of expressions. These writing workshops will be conducted by the language instructor working closely with the lecturing faculty. Students must contribute to the workshops ideas they learn from the lectures and develop during discussion on the LMES forum.

Since this is not an English language course, your English proficiency alone will not determine how well you do in this course. However, poor English proficiency may affect

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Writing workshop performance</td>
<td>Contribution to discussion, peer comments on group-mates’ essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Term essay (including revision efforts)</td>
<td>Write a persuasive essay of 1000 words,</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Which is revised at least once;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Show evidence of responses to comments on earlier draft from peers and the workshop instructor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
your performance because you will be assessed on the ideas and the argument in your essay.
Your English proficiency affects how well you can express these ideas and construct an
argument. If you are a first year student from Hong Kong and you obtained a level 3 pass at
HKDSE or a level 4 pass with any sub-score lower than 4, our experience suggests you will
find it difficult to do well in the course at the moment. We recommend that you wait and
take HUMA 1000 after you have completed and passed LANG 1002 and LANG 1003 with
at least a grade C-. Further information about the level of English proficiency you need to do
well in the course is available on the LMES site.

HUMA1000 是一门人文学課程，而不是英語語言課程，因此，你的英語語言水平並
不能單獨決 定你在這門課程的表現。然而，薄弱的英語能力　會影響你的表現，因為課
程將依據你在論文 寫作中所表達的思想和論點來進行測評。你的英語語言水平則會對
你在表現觀點和構建論據方 面產生影響。如果你是香港本地的一年級學生，同時你在
香港中學文憑考試(HKDSE)通過了3 級，或者通過了4 級卻有任何一卷低於4 級，根據
以往經驗，在現階段修讀HUMA1000 對你 而言會有一定難度。我們建議你在完成並
以至少C-的成績通過LANG 1002 和 LANG 1003 兩 門課程以後再開始修讀
HUMA1000。其他與修讀HUMA1000 相關的英語語言水平的進一步資 料已上載至
LMES 以供參考.

A sample of the required readings:
"…The science of the moral sense also alerts us to ways in which our psychological makeup
can get in the way of our arriving at the most defensible moral conclusions. The moral sense,
we are learning, is as vulnerable to illusions as the other senses. It is apt to confuse morality
per se with purity, status and conformity. It tends to reframe practical problems as moral
crusades and thus see their solution in punitive aggression. It imposes taboos that make
certain ideas indiscussible. And it has the nasty habit of always putting the self on the side of
the angels…"

LMES Forum: Students will take part in online discussion forum on the platform of LMES to
exchange among their peers any feelings, ideas, and questions, in response to questions about
the lectures and assigned readings as posted by the faculty. Questions are open-ended and there
is no model answer to look for. The purposes are to exchange ideas, listen to others, and learn
from each other.

Videoed presentation of essay in progress online and in lectures if selected: Students will
present their essays in progress online via LMES forum by posting a link of YouTube. The
posting will be assessed by assigned peers among themselves. The one who gets the highest
score in each workshop group will make a presentation in one of the two designated lectures.
The whole class will grade the presenters in each presentation lecture to produce the best
presenter who will receive 5 bonus marks, and the rest of the presenters will receive 3 bonus marks. Students who give constructive feedback to the top scorer via LMES before the presentation, and participate in both presentation lectures will gain one bonus mark if the top scorer of their group becomes one of the best in-class presenters.

**Term essay:** Each student will choose an essay topic from the prescribed ones and write an essay of around 1000 words in academic English. They need to show evidence of making use of what they learn from the lectures and assigned readings in their essays. The first draft must be submitted on time by prescribed deadline to get feedback from the language instructor and be later assessed on efforts in the writing process. The final version must show evidence of revision in response to the inputs from the peers and the language instructor. Submission must be done through LMES course site. Please note that there is a policy against late submission.

Further rubrics and guidelines about the class assessments and activities can be found in the course site on LMES.

**Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)**

This course has defined “ethics” as the specific aspect of **humanities perspective** to form the contents of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs). Within this framework, three basic values will be explored: morality, love and beauty.

- ILO#1: Communicate in writing and to speak persuasively in a professional manner.
- ILO#2: Demonstrate a **humanities perspective** in communication.
- ILO#3: Question assertions related to humanities, especially culture and values.
- ILO#4: Show appreciation of different views and contribute to constructive feedback.
- ILO#5: Apply existing empirical and logical skills to make independent judgments about personal values and priorities.
- ILO#6: Appreciate the complexity of the self’s relationship with family and the society.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1 – Lecture on Feb. 7**

**Introduction:** General overview of the course and topics to be covered (including the introduction to the conception of the self), with brief mention of the issues, activities, and expectations.

Orientation Tutorial: T3A, T3C, T3E, T3G, T3I, T3K, T3M, T3O, T3Q, T3S
Week 2 – Lecture on Feb. 14
**Defining Individual Morality:** This class discusses the good and bad in human nature, different conceptualizations of moralities across cultures and the exemplary moral behavior in Confucian culture, etc.


Orientation Tutorial: T3B, T3H, T3J, T3L, T3N, T3P, T3R
Writing Workshop 1: T3D, T3F, T3T

Week 3 – Lecture on Feb. 21
**Self and Emotions:** This class examines the role of positive and negative emotions in individual life.


Writing Workshop 1: T3A, T3G, T3I, T3M

Week 4 – Lecture on Feb. 28
**Self and Nature:** This class discusses the relationship between the self and the nature in different cultures and the representation of nature in poetry and landscape paintings as well as offers reflections on our current environmental situation.

2) A selection of poems on Nature.

**Supplementary viewing:** Spirited Away (2002)

Writing Workshop 1: T3B, T3H, T3J, T3L, T3N, T3P, T3R,
Writing Workshop 2: T3D, T3F, T3T

Week 5 - Lecture on March 6
**Self and Animal Philosophy:** This class discusses the issue of equality and morality with regard to the relationship between human and animal lives, and the representation of this relationship in the popular Japanese anime director Hayao Miyazaki’s works.


**Assigned viewing:** *Princess Mononoke*, dir. Hayao Miyazaki, 1997.

Writing Workshop 1: T3C, T3E, T3K, T3O, T3Q, T3S
Writing Workshop 2: T3A, T3G, T3I, T3M
Week 6 – Quiz 1 & Lecture on March 13

**Human Self and Technology:** This class addresses the affects of the development of technology upon individual human life in its positive and negative aspects, and discusses one sci-fi story that deals with such issues.


**Supplementary reading:** Isaac Asimov (1956). “The last question.” *Science Fiction Quarterly.*

Writing Workshop 2: T3B, T3H, T3J, T3L, T3N, T3P, T3R
Writing Workshop 3: T3D, T3F, T3T

Week 7 – Lecture on March 20

**Self, State, and Social Responsibilities:** This class examines the definitions and models of democracy, while addressing the self’s responsibilities for the family, the community and the society.


Writing Workshop 2: T3C, T3E, T3K, T3O, T3Q, T3S
Writing Workshop 3: T3A, T3G, T3I, T3M

Week 8 – Lecture on March 27

**Love and Family Responsibilities:** This class addresses the representation of romantic love in different cultures and delves into the conflicts between individual love and ethical values.


Writing Workshop 3: T3B, T3H, T3J, T3L, T3N, T3 P, T3R
Writing Workshop 4: T3D, T3F, T3T

Week 9 – Lecture on April 3

**Self, Love and Death:** This class talks about the values and challenges of love, aging and death and their literary and cinematic representation.

**Assigned Reading:** 1) Munro, Alice (December 27, 1999). “The bear came over the mountain.” *The New Yorker.* Retrieved from: http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/10/21/the-bear-came-over-the-mountain-2
2) A selection of poems on love
Feb. 2020

Writing Workshop 3: T3K, T3O, T3Q
Writing Workshop 4: T3A, T3G, T3I, T3M

Week 10 (i) - April 10 (No class)

Writing Workshop 3: T3C, T3E, T3S
Writing Workshop 4: T3L, T3P, T3R

Week 10 (ii) - Lecture on April 17

Individual Self and Appreciation of Art: This class deals with the value of art and beauty in individual life and the formation of well-rounded persons.


Writing Workshop 4: T3B, T3H, T3J, T3N
Writing Workshop 5: T3D, T3F, T3T

Week 11 – Lecture on April 24

The class talks about the concepts of nationalism, cosmopolitanism, and cultural hybridity, and their reflections in contemporary Hong Kong literature and society.


Writing Workshop 4: T3C, T3E, T3K, T3O, T3Q

Week 12 – May 8th

Re-examining the three values & Concluding lecture, or others

Writing Workshop 5: T3B, T3H, T3J, T3L, T3N, T3P, T3R

Writing Workshop 5: T3A, T3C, T3E, T3G, T3I, T3K, T3M, T3O, T3Q, T3S